

PSC-M-27  
21 January 1958

PROCUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting, 21 January 1958

MEMBERS PRESENT:

O/ACSI	- Mr. Richard Bauer	
AFCIN	- Major George Kudravetz	25X1A9
ONI	- Lt. Cdr. Hayes A. Dorr	a
NSA	- [REDACTED]	
USIA	- Mr. Walter B. Greenwood, Alternate	
CIA	- [REDACTED] Chairman	25X1A9a
	[REDACTED] Secretary	
	[REDACTED] Alternate	

VISITORS:

NSF	- Dr. Burton W. Adkinson	
Dept. of Commerce	- Mr. John Green	
ATTC	- Mr. C A. Brophy, Jr.	
CIA	- [REDACTED]	25X1A9a

1. Remarks By Dr. Adkinson

a. Following a brief introduction by the Chairman, Dr. Adkinson outlined some of the programs now under consideration in the National Science Foundation. He emphasized that the NSF exists to help other organizations and that it must take its guidance from those organizations. It charter directed NSF to foster the interchange of information among U.S. scientists and with scientists of other nations, by the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Scientific Information of the Killian Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Waterman of NSF. The first meeting is scheduled to deal with Russian scientific information.

\*DOC Exempt Letter In EUR File\*

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b. One of the major areas for consideration is the mechanical storage of information. An advisory committee will probably be established to review the proposals and to serve as a clearing house for information on storage systems. Dr. Adkinson will visit Western Reserve University to examine at first hand their proposal for an extensive information storage and retrieval system. He emphasized however that NSF does not do developmental work itself, but merely advises and draws together individuals with similar or complementary interests.

c. A secondary consideration is mechanical translation. On 18 January 1958 a meeting was held of directors of mechanical translation projects. They agreed to share information but would not commit themselves to formal coordination at this time. Capability now exists for word for word translation but it will be a year or more before running text can be adequately handled. Shortage of money is not a problem in this field at the present time. It is too early to define the boundaries of machine capability or the extent to which this capability could be effectively utilized.

d. A meeting will be held in Philadelphia in the near future among fourteen major abstracting services to discuss coverage of foreign literature. All abstracting services are seeking more rapid production and publication; they are also weighing the amount of money which would be needed for more prompt or more extensive service. It is estimated that there are at least 200 abstracting and indexing services in the U.S. working on scientific and technical information.

e. The new Science Advisor to the Secretary of State Dr. Wallace R. Brode, has indicated informally to Dr. Adkinson that most of the purpose of the science attache program will be to provide advice to the Secretary of State on policy. To achieve this Dr. Brode will report directly to the Secretary himself. Dr. Brode said that State is not prepared at this time to undertake collection of scientific information or to distribute such information as it does obtain to the balance of the U.S. Government. Dr. Brode indicated that procurement of scientific information would more properly be handled by an attache system reporting to NSF.

f. The Library of Congress has transmitted to NSF a paper proposing that it be established as a National Library of Science possibly taking over the documentation activity of ASTIA and the entire translation program. The whole proposal would call for one square mile of floor space and as a minimum, the Science Division of the Library of Congress would be doubled.

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2. Remarks By Mr. John Green

a. Mr. John Green, Director of the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, cited greatly increased Congressional interest in the availability of foreign scientific information. Commerce has asked for permission to use 300,000 dollars of its current budget for this program and is requesting one million and a quarter of new funds for next year. Consideration is now being given to the propriety of using presidential reserve funds for this purpose.

b. Mr. Green's program includes acquisition, organization of information, reference service, notification service and the supplying of copies of foreign language scientific and technical materials in the form of abstracts or translations. Cooperation has already been received from Air Force and CIA to get the program underway. Ultimately it is expected that 50,000 abstracts will be prepared per year and 10,000 full translations. Special effort will be made to dovetail these activities in the supplying of translations with those of the John Crerar Library possibly by having Crerar deal with private acquisitions and translation services while Commerce would serve as a clearing house for governmental activities.

c. Discussions with the British are scheduled for 24 January 1958. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is setting up a large lending library. The European Productivity Agency has proposed to issue a list of translations prepared in OEEC countries. They hope to inaugurate this service in March 1958.

d. The University of Pennsylvania has been commissioned by Commerce to prepare a survey on the timeliness of the distribution of English-language abstracts and the percentage of foreign material made available. A list of scientific and technical journals, prepared by Major Kudravetz in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology and metals, is being used to compare abstracts and full translations in terms of adequacy for research work. An interim report on this survey is expected by the end of January.

3. Discussion

a. Dr. Adkinson said that the NSF is increasing its support of cover-to-cover translation from the present 16 journals to approximately 29 by the end of this fiscal year. The titles translated have been selected by groups of American scientists. It has been urged that translations be made available to colleges and universities at the rate of 1 cent per

page rather than the 5 cents per page rate now in effect. In considering support of abstracting services, a special effort is being made not to starve out existing services which could not compete with subsidized competitors. Most of the abstracting services do not have enough money to take on a radically larger program without subsidy.

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b. [ ] asked if anyone is writing on the present state of the art in making scientific and technical information available. He cited as an example the general ignorance of the fact that CIA is providing 32,000 pages of translations for distribution [ ] 25X1A5a1

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[ ] Dr. Adkinson said that a member of his staff is preparing a statement on the organization of research in the USSR and pointing out that in spite of centralization, there is also much duplication of effort and that the use of machines is in fact quite limited. Dr. Adkinson would like to see a paper prepared on machine retrieval, but does not know where to turn for a person to prepare such a paper. Mr. Green suggested that if a paper could be prepared under the auspices of the Killian Subcommittee it would carry considerable prestige.

c. Dr. Adkinson mentioned that the Russians prepare approximately 420,000 abstracts. U.S. production however is not too far behind because he was able to cite from his own acquaintance English-language services covering approximately 250,000 abstracts. [ ] asked if science must be spoon-fed with translations or abstracts. Dr. Adkinson said that at present this is the case, but agreed that young scientists should have command of at least Russian and German. He also pointed out that more spoon-feeding is necessary for the natural scientist than for the social scientist. Mr. Green pointed out that spoon-feeding may be the quickest way to get research done and since one-half of the scientific and technical research is government-sponsored, the government has an interest in finding the quickest way to get the job done. 25X1A9a

d. Dr. Adkinson mentioned the difficulties of placing a second publications procurement man in Moscow. Library of Congress efforts have apparently been balked by State Department objections. He felt that the Geographic Attache program provided an example of how the job should be done, with a central office of requirements, want lists, and adequate staffing to back-stop field operations. Even if the publications procurement job might be ten times the size of the map procurement one it should be undertaken. [ ] pointed out the advisability of having a special assistant within the Department of State to monitor the publications procurement program. 25X1A9a

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e. [ ] cited as an indication of progress the indorsement of [ ] He will be accompanied by the Chief of the CIA Graphics Register and the Deputy Chief of the Acquisitions Branch, CIA Library. [ ]

[ ] He hoped further to reduce the cumbersome accounting system which sometimes makes procurement difficult.

f. Mr. Green mentioned that the European Productivity Agency hopes to place a publications procurement man in Moscow. He suggested that Dr. Eugene Scott at the Hotel Tallyrand in Paris would be the man to contact on this matter.

g. Dr. Adkinson felt that it was most unfortunate that the Library of Congress was prohibited by current foreign policy from writing directly to Communist China or from even answering letters from Peking. He believed that considerable procurement opportunities are doubtlessly being lost.

4. Business Meeting

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a. [ ] distributed a memorandum received from [ ] as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications, outlining his proposed trip.

b. The Draft of the Fifth Annual Report of the Procurement Subcommittee was distributed by [ ] with the request that comments be phoned in by close of business 24 January 1958.

c. [ ] stated that NSCID-16 will probably be incorporated into the new NSCID-1 and that appropriate portions of the old NSC directive will probably appear in a DCID. There will probably be only two committees, one on exploitation and one on procurement, meeting jointly approximately twice a year to discuss problems of mutual interest.

[ ] reported that Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Information Processing has recommended that it be established as a permanent Committee on Documentation of the IAC.

d. Mr. Bauer felt that additional reference aids are needed and that the new subcommittee structure might make it more likely that they would be prepared. [ ] said that some of these might be prepared by CIA as a service of common concern.

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Chairman

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